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IMPROVEMENTS TO JOINING ABUTTED PLANKS

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(57) Claim

1. An arrangement for joining two abutted planks including:
 - a first plank having an inside major face and outside major face, one of the ends of the plank being abutted to one of the ends of a second plank having an inside major face and an outside major face;
 - an aperture upon the inside major face of the first plank;
 - an aperture upon the inside major face of the second plank;
 - a channel upon each of the inside major faces of the first and second planks, the channel of each inside major face being such that they are aligned to provide a substantially single channel extending between the apertures upon both of the inside major face's of the first and second planks;
 - an elongate securing means located in the substantially single channel;
 - a first engagement means located in the aperture in the inside major face of the first plank;
 - a second engagement means located in the aperture upon the inside major face of the second plank, the second engagement means having a mechanical relationship with the first engagement means and the elongate securing means to draw together the first and second engagement means and hence securing together the two abutted planks.

4. An arrangement for joining two abutted planks each plank including at least one aperture and at least one channel communicating with the aperture and the end of the plank abutted with the end of the other plank, the

arrangement including for each plank at least one engagement means being adapted to engage at least one side of a said aperture within the plank, and securing means adapted reside within the channels and adapted draw together the respective engagement means so that the ends of the planks are securely abutted together.

14. A method of butt joining planks including the steps of forming apertures within a major face of each of the planks, forming for each plank a channel communicating between the aperture and the end of the plank to be abutted with the other plank, aligning the planks together to form a composite plank where the location of the aperture and channel within each plank are selected so that the channels align, inserting engagement means within each aperture so as to engage a side of the aperture, inserting securing means within the channels, and drawing the respective engagement means together by means of the securing means and thereby securely abutting the stringers together.

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